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Message Text

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63
ORIGIN USIA-15

INFO OCT-01 EUR-06 ISO-00 RSC-01 /023 R

66611
DRAFTED BY: USIA:IOP/C:SBOURGIN:HSH
APPROVED BY: EUR/EX:HWGEISEL
USIA/NASA:DWILLIAMS
IOP/C:DIDRUCKER (USIA)
IEE:FQUINN (USIA)
IEE:JKORDEK (USIA)
EUR/EE:CBROWN (PHONE)
---------- 097388
R 162056Z AUG 74
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

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FOR P AND C

E.O. 11652: NA

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE PROGRAMMING OF ASTRONAUT GENE CERNAN FOR
EAST EUROPE

1. NASA HAS MADE AASTRONAUT GENE CERNAN AVAILABLE AS AMERICAN
REPRESENTATIVE TO OPEN "PROGRESS AND ENVIRONMENT" EXHIBIT IN
BRATISLAVA OCTOBER 1. CERNAN IS OF CZECH AND SLOVAK ANCESTRY
AND IS LOOKING FORWARD TO ASSIGNMENT.

2. CERNAN WHO IS MISSION OPERATIONS ADVISOR ON
APOLLO-SOYUZ TEST PROJECT FLIGHT SCHEDULED FOR MID-1975
WILL BE MOSCOW UNTIL SEPTEMBER 21. NASA HAS RAISED QUESTION
OF WHETHER HE MIGHT BE PROGRAMMED BY AGENCY IN EAST
EUROPE FROM SEPTEMBER 21 TO OCTOBER 1.

3. CERNAN WOULD WELCOME SUCH PROGRAMMING. HE WAS COMMANDER
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OF APOLLO-17 ON LAST MOON LANDING, AND LUNAR MODULE PILOT ON

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APOLLO-10. HE ALSO FLEW ON GEMINI-9. HE IS
EXCELLENT AT PUBLIC AFFAIRS WORK. CERNAN'S SPECIALITY AS
ASTRONAUT WAS SPACECRAFT PROPULSION AND ROCKET ENGINE
TECHNOLOGY.

4. AGENCY AWARE POSSIBLE SENSITIVITIES INVOLVED IN PUBLIC
EXPOSURE OF AMERICAN ASTRONAUTS. CERNAN IS TRAVELING ALONE
AND WILL BE ABLE TO LECTURE ON JOINT RUSSIAN-
AMERICAN 1975 MISSION WHICH MIGHT MAKE PROGRAMMING HIM LESS
DIFFICULT IN EASTERN EUROPE COUNTRIES. REQUEST REPLY.
KISSINGER

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Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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TAGS: TSPA, US, XH, (CERNAN, EUGENE A)
To: PRAGUE BUCHAREST
Type: TE
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